





## OLLA PODRIDA.

Some years ago in the Far East, the Soudan or elsewhere, a scientific man travelling took some photographs, and when in a minute or two he showed the negative to a venerable chief, the chief looked pleased and asked, "Who sent you?" "The Sultan," said the scientist. "The Sultan is the oldest child of Satan." The philosopher laughed; but not more heartily than did the Judge of the Supreme Court in Sydney at the reply of a witness who was called to testify as to the character of an offender who had committed an offence in liquor. "You know him well?" "Yes, your Honor, I know him well for a poor man and a scoundrel can all know." "What is his name? who is he?" "Yes, your Honor?" "But when he is drunk?" "Arash, God help us; when he is drunk he is the devil's brother."

Great interest has it said been caused at Folkestone and the neighbourhood by the discovery in the parish church of what are believed to be the remains of St. Oswald, King of Northumbria, and the grandfather of Edgar the Great, one of the Seven Kings of Kent. Some workmen in removing the plaster from a niche in the north wall noticed that the masonry showed signs of having been disturbed at some period, and a further search was made. Taking away a layer of rubble and broken tiles, a cavity was discovered, and in this a battered and corroded leaden casket, oval-shaped, was found, containing the bones of a man, said to be about 19 in. high. Within it were human remains, but in such a crumbling condition that the vicar declined to allow them to be touched except by experts. St. Oswald lived early in the seventh century, and was interred, according to historians, in the church on the cliff where she had founded a priory.

A dreadful topic in New York Society, say an American paper, is Mr. Mandie, He is a young British whom Mrs. Langtry brought to the States to act in her company two seasons ago. He played what is known as a booby part—a bluberry boy—in "A Wife's Peril." It was given out that Mr. Mandie was a veritable British aristocrat, his father being a gentleman of Queen Victoria's own household. He brought some introductory letters, and from New York's point of view, was a most commanding at the "Pavilion" hall. He was a good-looking fellow, with a lovely drawl, and the girls took to him at once.

One recent German publication contains a description of a magnetic plant which has been christened "Phylogen electrica," which possesses strongly marked electro-magnetic properties. In breaking a twig the hand receives a shock that resembles the sensation produced by an induction coil. Experiments made on this plant showed that a small compass was affected by it at a distance of about 20 feet. On a near approach the needle vibrated, and finally began to revolve rapidly. The physician who made the experiments ordered the reading from the plant. The energy of the influence varied with the time of day, being strongest at about two o'clock p.m., and becoming almost nothing during the night. It is also greatly increased in stormy weather, and when it rains the plants seem to wither. It is said that no birds or insects are ever seen or about the plants. The soil where they grow contains a magnetic metal like iron, cobalt, or nickel, and it is evident the plant itself possesses this electrical property.

In an article on Niagara as a Source of Power which appears in a recent number of *Science*, Professor John Trowbridge points out that the cost of long conductors, the maintenance of the insulation, and the interest on the cost of any method of subdivision may be found to offset the advantages of the new system. Further more, he considers the importance of the plant and the possible accidents to the plant and its distributing elements, which this distance implies, serious drawbacks to the electric lighting of cities by this means. He ascribes the reason of large sources of water not having been used for electric lighting on a large scale to the fact that small details, and what are called the small items assume great proportions, and bid fair to consume all the power which comes from a central plant. Thus, he says, the city of Buffalo could have been lighted by the utilization of the water power along the Niagara river, and the failure to do so has, in his belief, been due either to the opposition of the gas companies or to the lack of imagination of capitalists. In short, in Professor Trowbridge's opinion, the fact with which success in the use of coal can be transposed to place contumelies at present the cheapness of a very remote source of energy in the shape of a waterfall.

## COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

TUESDAY, 8th September, 1885.

Quotations are—  
Malwa (New)..... \$500 to \$510 per picul, alco.  
Do. "..... \$500 to \$510 per picul, alc.  
Malwa (Old)..... \$550 to \$540 per picul, alc.  
Patna (New)..... \$5773 per chust.  
Bunares (New)..... 5614  
Bunares (Old)..... 549 nom. " "

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON—  
Telegraphic Transfer..... 354  
Bank Bills on demand..... 362  
Bank Bills at 30 days' sight..... 367  
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight..... 361  
Credits, at 4 months' sight..... 361  
Documentary Bills at 4 months' sight..... 363  
ON PARIS—  
Bank Bills on demand..... 440  
Credits at 4 months' sight..... 447  
ON NEW YORK—  
Bank Bills on demand..... 844  
Credits, 60 days' sight..... 86  
ON BOMBAY—  
Telegraphic Transfer..... 238  
Bank on demand..... 238  
ON CALCUTTA—  
Telegraphic Transfer..... 238  
Bank on demand..... 238  
ON SHANGHAI—  
Bank at sight..... 73  
Private, 30 days' sight..... 74

SHADES.

Quotations are—  
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—163 per cent premium.  
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited—\$40 per share.  
China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$64 per share.

North China Insurance—Ths. 300 per share.  
Yangtze River Insurance Association—Ths. 130 per share.  
China Insurance Company, Limited—\$170 per share.  
On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Ths. 143 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Limited—\$82 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$367 per share.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$75 per share.

Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—55 per cent premium.

Hongkong Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s Shares—\$45 per share premium.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s Shares—17 per cent discount.

China and Moulmein Steamship Company, Limited—30 per cent discount, nominal.

Donghai Steamship Company, Limited—16 per cent premium.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$90 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$160 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$85 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company (Debentures)—1 cent premium nominal.

Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$80 per share.

Hongkong Ice Company's Shares—\$155 per share.

Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$118 per share.

Perak Tin Mining and Smelting Company—\$20 per share.

Selangor Tin Mining Company—\$19 per share.

Fork Sugar Cultivation Company—Ths. 12 per share.

Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$68 per share.

Hongkong Glass Manufacturing Co., Limited—Par, nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 A—2 per cent premium.  
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—5 per cent premium.  
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent premium.

## HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

(From Messrs. Falconer &amp; Co's Register) September 9th.

Feverometer—F.M. (Wet bulb)..... 85  
Feverometer—F.M. (Wet bulb)..... 84  
Feverometer—F.M. (Wet bulb)..... 78  
Feverometer—F.M. (Wet bulb)..... 80  
Feverometer—F.M. (Wet bulb)..... 80  
Feverometer—Marine..... 45  
Feverometer—Marine (Wet bulb)..... 78

## HONGKONG TIDE-TABLE.

For 15th September, 1885.

HIGH Water. LOW Water.

Month	High Water	Low Water
July	9 ft. 4 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Aug.	9 ft. 4 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Sept.	9 ft. 5 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Oct.	9 ft. 5 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Nov.	9 ft. 5 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Dec.	9 ft. 5 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Jan.	9 ft. 5 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Feb.	9 ft. 5 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
Mar.	9 ft. 5 in.	5 ft. 2 in.
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